

# Fishing & Hunting<sup>TM</sup> Journal

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*



FREE

## IN THIS ISSUE...

- INCREASE MENHADDEN HARVEST APPROVED
- MARYLAND LEGISLATORS INTRODUCE PLAN TO DESIGNATE CHESAPEAKE BAY A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA





Bob Horton with a heavy whitetail he took bow hunting in Kent County Maryland.

# DNR Accepting Recipes for Wild Maryland: The Holiday Edition

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is once again putting out a call to all wildlife and cooking enthusiasts to submit their favorite recipes for its Wild Maryland online cookbook, this time for the holiday season.

The department encourages Maryland's hunters, anglers, and foragers to submit their best holiday recipes, along with photos of their dishes, featuring Maryland species.

"Marylanders share many wonderful traditions during the holiday season, especially recipes passed down from generation to generation," said DNR Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio. "The Wild Maryland holiday edition cookbook will showcase the recipes of our very own hunters, anglers, and foragers embracing the bounty of our lands and waters."

Submissions must include a list of required ingredients, easy-to-follow preparation instructions, and feature a species found in Maryland. Adding a few words about the history behind a recipe is encouraged.

Some of Maryland's most popular hunting and fishing seasons take place just before or during the holidays, making it an ideal time of year for planning a wild feast – blue crabs, oysters, catfish, and trout are for the taking in our waters; while deer archery, migratory game bird, and small game seasons are ongoing, and deer firearm season begins Nov. 26.

The department created the online cookbook, Wild Maryland in 2021, and subsistence hunters, anglers, and wild game/fish cooking enthusiasts submitted recipes from all regions of our state.

Using the Wild Maryland website, recipes can be searched by species category. In addition, a special resources section is included with tips for wild foraging, directions for fileting a fish, a link to DNR's guides to Hunting and Trapping and Fishing and Crabbing, and more. The department has also launched a Pinterest page, where users can pin recipes to their boards and share them with other Pinterest users.

Submissions will be accepted throughout the holiday season. Anyone interested can send their recipes to [Recipes.DNR@maryland.gov](mailto:Recipes.DNR@maryland.gov). Entries received may be published in a future edition of Wild Maryland.



Roast Goose with Dumplings by Gabrielle Perret, from the Wild Maryland online cookbook. Maryland DNR photo

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# Fishing & Hunting Journal

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**Armistice Day Blizzard**  
*Courtesy wildwings.com*

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## BY INSPIRATION MINISTRIES

### Abundant Blessings

It became an iconic portrayal of the ideal Thanksgiving feast. Norman Rockwell's painting Freedom from Want pictured friends, family members, and neighbors sitting around a table, smiles on every face, enjoying fellowship as they prepared to share their Thanksgiving meal.

The idyllic scene was made in response to an address by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1941 in which he stressed four freedoms (including freedom from want).

Initially, the response to Rockwell's painting was not uniformly positive. Some, including Rockwell himself, were concerned that the imagery might not be realistic. Some complained that he stressed overabundance during wartime when many faced hardships. The objections were eventually answered.

With the support of a national magazine, the painting was exposed to the public. It struck a chord. Thousands of prints were reproduced and sold, and the public fell in love with Rockwell's portrayal.

The imagery reminds us of God's promise of abundance if His people obey Him and follow His commands (v. 1). But there is more to joy than abundant resources. This joy is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) that comes from fellowshiping with believers and from sharing with others.

God desires to bless us abundantly, but He also wants us to be generous, concerned with those in need, and share out of the abundance He provides.

Reflection Question: How can you practically share out of your abundance with those in need?



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# Increase approved for menhaden harvest along the Atlantic Coast

East Coast fishery managers have approved increasing commercial harvests of Atlantic menhaden from Maine to Florida.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which regulates near-shore harvests of migratory fish, voted Wednesday to set a new ceiling on the coastwide menhaden catch of 233,550 metric tons, a 20% increase over the current quota.

The longstanding cap on harvest in the Chesapeake Bay remains unchanged, at 51,000 metric tons. But conservationists and sports anglers continue to worry about the impact to the Bay from large-scale fishing of menhaden near its mouth.

The commission's action follows a recent population assessment that concluded menhaden are not being overfished and that harvests could be increased substantially without endangering the stock's abundance.

Menhaden are a small, oily fish that are harvested chiefly for processing or "reducing" them into animal feed and human food supplements, but also for use as bait in crabbing, lobstering and catching other fish.

Their commercial harvest has long been controversial, especially in the Bay, a prime nursery area for the coastal stock. Conservation groups contend a fishing fleet operated by Omega Protein out of Reedville, VA, leaves too few of the forage fish in the water to support striped bass and a variety of other creatures that feed on them.

In response to that concern, the commission adjusted its assessment process a couple of years ago to better account for menhaden's role in the food chain. But to the dismay of many conservation advocates, the new methodology concluded the stock was healthy enough to sustain increased harvests.

"We thought this population has been healthy for a long time," said Omega spokesman Ben Landry, but the commission had hesitated for years to act on previous expert advice supporting an increase. "It seems like this time they really put their faith in what the stock assessment indicated."

The raised harvest cap will be of limited benefit to Omega, however, because the commission also reallocated the catch along the coast. It awarded a slightly larger share to commercial harvesters in New England, where they've been netting more menhaden in recent years to provide bait for the lobster industry and other fishing. As a result, Virginia saw its share of the overall coastwide harvest trimmed.

Landry said the increased coastwide harvest cap would still allow Omega to net more fish, but not as many as it had hoped. He said that might limit the number of people the company could hire to augment its Reedville workforce of 260.

Conservation advocates acknowledged the logic of the reallocation but rued the size of the increase.

Many types of larger fish in the Chesapeake Bay depend on a steady supply of forage species, like the menhaden as part of their diet.

Chris Moore, senior regional ecosystem scientist for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, said he had hoped the commission would only permit a smaller bump up in catch because so much of it occurs near the mouth of the Bay. Omega's six fishing vessels operating mainly in the Bay and off Virginia's coast account for about 70% of the entire Atlantic Coast harvest.

"Recognizing the importance of menhaden to striped bass, other fish, birds, and marine mammals," Moore said, "we believe a more cautious approach to the quota increase was warranted."

Steve Atkinson, president of the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association, likened the commission's decision to "a slap in the face" after experiencing what he described as the poorest fishing season he's ever had along Virginia's Eastern Shore.

"This just puts more pressure on Virginia menhaden and increases the likelihood that we don't have enough menhaden in the Bay to serve as forage for fish like striped bass, cobia and others," Atkinson said.

Conservation advocates contend that Omega's large-scale coastal harvests already depress the number of menhaden in the Bay, and this will make it worse.

Two Virginia lawmakers have indicated they may seek legislation calling for a study of whether menhaden are locally depleted, but Atkinson said that could take years to determine.

"We don't really have 7 to 10 years to find out if there's a problem here," Atkinson said. In addition to faulting Omega for scooping up too many fish, he and others complain about large "spills" of dead menhaden and other fish washing up on Bay shorelines from nets when the fleet is working the lower Chesapeake.

A coalition of 11 national and Virginia-based conservation and sportfishing groups, including Atkinson's, have gathered more than 10,000 signatures on petitions calling on Virginia to bar Omega from harvesting menhaden in the Bay.

Article reprinted courtesy of Tim Wheeler of The Bay Journal

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## “Tackle Box Tim”

### Year of the Smallmouth

Smallmouth bass fishing resonates through many fishermen. We hear more about largemouth bass and striped bass fishing in Maryland; yet, there is plenty of opportunity to catch smallmouth bass. This year, more than ever, I caught the smallmouth bug. I spent numerous days on the tidal Susquehanna, and a day floating down the Potomac River. All of these trips had one thing in common: brown bass in current willing, or not, to strike our lures. Yes, there is current in tidal water. It is the lateral flow of water that ebbs and floods.

The draw for me in catching smallmouth bass is their dogged determination once they are hooked. Their diesel-like power and aerial antics are their opposition to being landed at the boat. Smallies strike a variety of lures. They fall for the ultra-finesse drop shot rigs and undulating stick worms. The simplistic twister tail and finesse jig walked along the bottom have caught them for years. Crankbaits and spinnerbaits will catch active smallies. You can also catch them on poppers, walking baits, and buzzbaits. You have to be a versatile angler if you want to keep up with them . . . season to season, and even hourly in a tidal environment.

Smallies set up similarly in both freshwater and tidal rivers. They seek current-breaking structure and cover for ambush points, and to merely rest before feeding again. You will find them along islands, ledges, rock clusters, fallen wood, and even grass lines. Some of the better areas feature combinations thereof. Look for a large section of a tree hung up on rocks, and rocks adjacent to or within a grass bed.

Most fishermen look to the flowing Potomac for the renowned freshwater smallmouth fisheries in the state. We also have a quality fishery in tidal waters. You can find smallies in the upper reaches of the tidal Potomac. I recall catching one years ago in site of the Lincoln Memorial. Smallies are frequently caught in the tidal Susquehanna, downriver from Deer Creek. I have seen pictures of anglers with smallmouth bass even down to the mouth of Swan Creek on the flats. While smallies on the

flats are an anomaly, they can be patterned in the river.

My Smallmouth quest started early this year. On a cold, human high pressure system day in March, I was with Sean Peddicord who was in tournament-prep mode. He asked me along to scout for largemouth and smallmouth for his next contest. We checked several of his spots, but the wind and high barometer that often accompany me held back the bite.

Sean had a hunch to check one of his cold weather ledges that hold both bass species. He worked a shaky head worm, while I dragged a drop shot rig. We were merely wetting line until I felt the slightest tap. It was so subtle, I almost ignored it. Finding my wits, I set the hook into what is now my personal best 4-pound, 14-ounce smallmouth. It was the only fish of the day; but as I always say, if you only going to catch one, make it a good one. What a way to start the year!

Throughout late spring and early summer I continue the smallmouth pursuit on the Susquehanna with Sean, and Randy Yarnall. These two guys are tops in my book in targeting tidal smallies. Sean and I found them along grass flats mixed with largemouth bass. Shallow diving crankbaits were serving us well over the weeds. We switched to swim jigs when the crankbait bite slowed. They got us a few extra bites for the day, and a new option to cast in the future. Randy and I targeted islands and fooled the brown bass with walking baits and stick worms. We then found a few in the grass with the shallow running crankbait.

The heat of summer found my wife, Gale, and I floating the upper Potomac with guide Bryan Kelly of White Fly Outfitters. It was truly a day that we had to battle the heat and work hard for our bites. Fortunately, it's the time of year when the pattern is on the bottom and the top. The smallmouth wanted twister tails walked along the bottom and buzzbaits churned across the surface. Try as we might with other similar lures, the smallies wanted what they wanted and nothing else. It's always nice when they want the simplest of offerings and stick to it all day.



Tidal smallmouth bass expert Randy Yarnall with a smallie from the Susquehanna.

This fall, I caught up again with both Randy and Sean. I mentioned to Randy that I would like to see if our spring locations on the Susquehanna would hold smallies in the fall given similar water temperatures. My hunch was correct, yet they wanted nothing to do with our springtime finesse methods. Randy put on a clinic with an old blue back/chartreuse Bandit 200 crankbait. Later that same day, we met up with Sean elsewhere on the river where he was whacking them on a blue back/chrome Bandit of the same size.

My smallmouth expert friends have provided me with great outings this year. We caught them in numerous ways and I have enjoyed them all. It's quite a challenge to land big smallies on light line drop shot rigs. I get charged up when Mr. Brown Bass bends over my crankbait rod; and there are not many more excitable moments than watching a smallmouth bust a surface lure. Capitalizing on my opportunities, this has truly been a year of the smallmouth bass for me!



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Joe was all smiles after his successful October bow hunt with Schrader's Outdoors.



James Schillinger took this nice buck in QA County with his compound bow.








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Christina Morrison with a nice drum caught off the Avon, NC fishing pier.

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Rick Barnes with a big striped bass he caught on the beach at Fenwick Island, DE. It measured 47 inches and weighed 46 pounds (released).



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Nice citation striped bass 47" caught off cut bunker/spot combo in Chincoteague, VA.



Caleb Valentine of Big Rim Outfitters guided Chris to a very successful hunt. Photo courtesy Shore Taxidermy.



Matthew Hargrove fishing in Seychelles, Africa caught this prized Ruby Snapper in 350-550 ft. of water





## By Captain Mark Galasso

I've never bought a lottery ticket.... Until now. The temptation of being an instant billionaire (yes with a B) was just too great. Saturday during work I rushed up to my local convenience store to purchase my 10 tickets, 20 bucks worth and lunch. I had the clerk print me out my ten tickets, grabbed lunch and my daily Mountain Dew and I was all set. So I thought. Come to find out that you can't use a credit card to buy lottery tickets and I didn't have a debit card and only 6 bucks in cash! I hesitated like a deer in the headlights hoping the dumb pathetic look on my face would instill pity and the clerk would run my card for everything. No such luck and the bottom line was I gave seven of the tickets back and spent my last 6 bucks on three tickets. But at least my chances of winning were now three in 500 million. Pretty good odds. I couldn't help thinking though that one of the seven tickets I handed back to the clerk was actually the winner. I can only hope the person behind me in the ticket line doesn't become a billionaire. I'll be devastated.

The fact was I already had most of the money spent since I was only going to get 600 million not the advertised 1.6 billion. Like most people I anticipate paying off all my debts as well as all my family and friends debts. Except maybe that one guy that I'm just not sure of. I'm going to slip a

## "Tuna The Tide"

### Lottery Hopeful

cashier's check in the church collection envelope for a million bucks. That way it will be anonymous. Though it will probably drive the treasurer nuts trying to figure out where it came from.

I'll set up college funds for my Grandkids just in case they don't get their student loans paid off by the government. Who knows? Maybe one or more of them will get an art degree from Harvard and need the money to pay off fifteen years of study. Sorry, didn't mean for this rant to get political.

I've had my eye on this little waterfront farm for years. I'm not only going to buy it but turn it into the hottest fishing and hunting destination on the east coast. I figure that'll set me back about 20 million by the time I fix up all the buildings, put in my small private marina and turn the fields into waterfowl heaven laced with ponds and a buffet of grains and succulents. I need to upgrade my decoy spread. I'll find the hottest decoys out there and buy a ton of them. Or maybe I'll just get a carver to work for me full time and we'll make whatever we need. I'll buy a couple of ATVs and trailers to transport hunters and fisherman from place to place in style. In fact I might just get a camo painted limo to pick them up from the airport!

I would have to upgrade my Charter Fleet. Half a dozen center consoles and a couple inspected charter boats. All the latest gear

and electronics. I'd get all my friends to run the fleet as well as take my hunting parties. The "Guide" bunkhouse would be incredible. Most of my guides might never want to leave. In fact I might have to build a second one for their significant others!

Everything we catch or shoot will be prepared at our small private restaurant overlooking the water. The bar would be second to none. Stocked with everything you can imagine. The chef and bartender would be world renowned. Everyone would want to come. But wait! It's all private for our exclusive members and guests. I can't wait. It all sounds so good I might also set up an operation for offshore fishing in some remote corner of the world. More boats and people. I'll just oversee everything from my private camouflaged Lear Jet. (I really don't like waiting in lines at the airport.) I have enough pilot friends I'm sure they can help me out.

I was wondering how to handle all that money initially. FDIC only insures your deposits up to 250,000 dollars per bank. If you took a one time check for 600 million to be fully insured you'd have to deposit it into 24 separate banks. That's too darn confusing. I'm already in my 60s and not real good with math. Maybe I'll just find a good banker and investment guy and start my own bank! Though I'm sure any

good investment guy would tell me all my plans so far are NUTS! And maybe he or she would be right. I can hunt or fish every day anywhere I want for the rest of my life for a lot less money. I'd still want the private jet though because I don't want to waste half of that time standing in lines! And a camouflaged jet would be really cool. I wonder what the FFA would say about that.

There is a major downside to all this new found money. I'm going to have to take better care of myself. I want to live long enough to enjoy the fruits of everyone else's labor. Yup that's what I said. "Everyone else's labor". Isn't that what the Lottery really is. You work. You get paid. And you buy a lottery ticket. And that ONE person in 500 million wins everyone else's money. Don't get me wrong our country was founded on the American Dream and the Lottery is a dream. For a limited few it becomes reality.

I just checked my 3 tickets. I didn't have a single number that matched. For me it's just a dream. This time. Maybe next time. If I find out that the winner was from Kent Island and purchased their ticket from my convenience store at 12:01 pm Saturday November 5th, 2022. I'll never play again! I can only apologize to all my friends and family. I WILL try again to make all of you happy. Thanks for your support.



Steven Kambouris with a nice large mouth bass.

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Isla Bohle woke her Father up to go Squirrel hunting and was rewarded. Photo courtesy of Clyde's.



Edwin and Matthew Fry both took 9 pointers with their Grandfather Ed Fry. Photos courtesy of John's Butcher Shop.



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Steve Keithley with a nice buck taken in Prince George's Co.



Brooke was home for Thanksgiving break from Penn State when she bagged this nice buck.



Hannah Smith with her first buck



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Zach LeMaster took this nice buck with an 18 yd shot

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Maryland legislators introduce plan to designate Chesapeake Bay a national recreation area

Two Maryland Democrats have released draft legislation to designate the Chesapeake Bay as a national recreation area, with plans to formally introduce the legislation in the coming year.

The measure, introduced by Sen. Chris Van Hollen and Rep. John Sarbanes, would significantly simplify the process for securing conservation money for the bay and would connect various sites in the region under the umbrella of the National Park Service.

These sites go beyond Maryland to places like Hampton, Va., the site where the first enslaved Africans were brought to the continent in 1619. The draft, which will undergo a 90-day public comment period, would only allow the National Park Service to acquire sites voluntarily through donations and sales. It would not authorize the park service to tighten or alter any existing regulations on use of waterways or fishing in the area.

“The release of this discussion draft is just the beginning – we look forward to continuing our engagement with all community stakeholders to get their input on how we can build on this foundation to create a Chesapeake National Recreation Area to achieve our goal of bringing national recognition and greater opportunities to our Bay region,” Van Hollen said in a statement.

If the efforts are successful, the Chesapeake Bay would be the first national recreation area designation since 2009, when Oregon’s Mount Hood was granted the designation. The designation of the bay as a national recreation area has been under discussion for about four decades, including a push in the 1990s by former Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D), the congressman’s father. The younger Sarbanes and Van Hollen formally announced a working group last year, drafting guiding principles for the project this June.

Chesapeake Conservancy President and CEO Joel Dunn hailed the announcement, saying in a statement that “the Chesapeake Bay is just as spectacular as Yellowstone or Yosemite. It is as great as the Great Smoky Mountains and as grand as the Grand Tetons.”

“The Chesapeake Bay, our nation’s largest estuary, is a national treasure,” he added. “The Chesapeake is the birthplace of American identity and the landscape that bore witness to the many diverse people who have lived along its shores, including the Indigenous peoples who lived here for thousands of years before the Europeans arrived, free and enslaved Blacks, and the watermen and women who’ve all played a vital role in the story of our Chesapeake Bay. Their stories are worthy of National Park Service interpretation and education.”



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By Grant Soukup

## "Montana Grant"



## MARYLAND, AMERICA'S FISHING and HUNTING PARADISE!!!

Maryland has been known as America in Miniature! You have the Appalachian Mountains, Piedmont Plateau, Chesapeake Bay watershed, Eastern Shore and Atlantic Ocean. This diverse habitat is unique. The Chesapeake Bay is a wonderful and large estuary. You can celebrate the salt water, with sand in your toes or climb a mountaintop in Garrett County to chase turkeys and deer. Neighboring states also offer unique and diverse opportunities.

I was born in Oakland, Maryland but I'm now residing in southwest Montana. Big Sky Country is amazing but lacks much of what Maryland offers. Rocky Mountain oysters are no where like a bay shellfish. Big trout are fun but big stripers are better. Seafood here in Montana is often not worth the trip.

I miss the diversity of hunting and fishing that Chesapeake Bay Country offers. The snow goose hunting is amazing as can be the other waterfowl fun. Whitetail deer and the smell of the oak forests is special. Turkeys have spread onto the eastern shore in force. Catching flounder, perch, trout, blues, rock, and so many other tasty, finned friends is great. Year around seasonal fishing is more available.

Some hunting is not what it used to be in MD. Pheasants and quail were once plentiful. Now you rarely hear or see them. Access is always a challenge. For many of the best access options, you need a lease. Ironically, in MD, deer only need a few acres to live. Land-

owners get angry when deer eat their landscaping and will allow hunting.

Montana access is tough. Wealthy non-residents own major amounts of land and allow no access. Lease money is not an option unless you are an Outfitter and can afford the huge fees. Many of the quality hunting areas are not available to the average guy. Over half of the State public land is landlocked by private land.

International species are also available to Marylanders. Sadly, some are invasive, but they are there to be had. Sika deer are the eastern elk of the swamps. Snakeheads and blue catfish have become desirable and tasty choices. Golden trout have become popular with spring anglers.

Maryland Natural Resource agencies are working hard to manage and expand fishing and hunting opportunities. Even with increased people

populations, public lands are available across the state. You can hunt deer from September to January, in some form. Other game is also available well

beyond most states' seasons. In Montana, most deer and elk hunting are done by Thanksgiving.

Every month of the year, MD, offers something you can hunt, or fish, for. The state trout stocking program offers wonderful Spring and Fall fishing. The celebration of opening days brings back special memories. There were always lots of people that showed up to the party. Ice fishing is more predictable in Montana, but I do remember ice

fishing a frozen Chesapeake Bay. The Spring runs of yellow and white perch are abundant. Hickory and White Shad are the Poor Man's Salmon. Striper fishing is such fun when trolled, cast to, or jigged up. These fish earned their name by fighting so hard. Reservoir bass fishing is fun as is the Potomac River and upper Bay tidal waters.

In Big Sky Country, when Winter sets in, if you don't like ice fishing, you are out of luck, and need to go skiing. Spring can also be late. When the snowpack melts off, the rivers flood for 3-5 weeks. Fishing and hunting opportunities are restricted because of weather and the quality of harsh weather gear you have. The premier fly fishing is often less than 4 months long. Montana Big game season ends when Maryland is just heating up.

Shellfish such as oysters, clams, and crabs are unique and special to the Maryland region. My Montana annual birthday present is a steamed bushel of Jimmies delivered to my front door. Vince's Seafood, in Middle River has never failed to provide wonderful service and tasty crabs. The only Native crabs you get in Montana come from unprotected sex.

Montana does have some unique fishing and hunting opportunities. You can catch chinook, coho, and kokanee salmon in some lakes, snag paddlefish, hook sturgeon, and pull ling through the ice. There are only a few places to catch bass, crappie, and gills in Big Sky Country.

Montana elk, deer, moose, and turkey hunting are superb, if you can gain access to private lands. Big game hunting here has become a rich man's sport. Once the weather gets tough, the critters

migrate to private areas, and vacate the public lands. It's not uncommon to see thousands of big game critters herded up on private ranches.

Sandhill cranes and the greater Canada geese in Big Sky Country are fun. The western flyway offers a diversity of web-footed feathered friends. Pheasants, Huns, mountain grouse, and sage grouse are unique. There are a few quail showing up in Montana along with some feral swine, but they are considered invasive. Small mouth Bass in the upper Yellowstone have set off alarms and are eradicated on site along with Lake trout in Yellowstone Lake.

No place is perfect. Big Sky Country is just as special as Chesapeake Bay Country. If you visit both areas, you will find pleasure and fun. The flavors and unique diversity are worth enjoying. There are fewer people in Montana, until the better weather shows up. Hunting and fishing crowds are more spread out, until the Summer tourist season.

Some of my favorite smells and sights are from the oak forests of western Maryland, the salt spray of Assateague, the morning mists of the Susquehanna, the purple skies of the Rocky Mountains, Old Bay on fresh seafood, a wild Cutthroat trout sipping a hopper, majestic snow-covered mountain peaks in July, upland birds rising from wheat field edges, bugling bulls in the eastern shore marshes or on rocky mountain peaks, and the beauty of both places.

America, Montana, and Maryland are wonderful and free places. If you snooze, you lose. Times and places are changing. Take some time to travel and celebrate what America offers fishermen and hunters.



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## Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark  
Sampson

### RULES OF THE ROAD

During the summer season I run a lot of half-day fishing trips out on the ocean, which has me transiting our inlet around the middle of each day. After following this routine for a number of years I've finally come to the conclusion that anyone who runs only full day trips offshore can't possibly know what they're missing. Anglers who leave the inlet before 9:am and don't return until after 4:pm totally avoid the opportunity to witness a show that occurs for a few hours during the middle of each day on the downtown waters that flow through and around the inlet and Rt.50 Bridge area.

There's big boats, little boats, personal watercraft, para-sail boats, Coast Guard boats, kayaks, tour boats, fishing boats, an Army Core dredger, even a pirate boat! With every make, model, size and style of vessel coming and going from the ocean, crossing to and from Assateague Island, drifting or anchored in the channels, or just "squirreling" around – there's a lot going on, and with so many boats moving about within a relatively small area of water you can bet that there's going to be some confusion and periodic tension between skippers. "What the heck is that guy doing? Hey buddy, I've got the right-of-way here, move out of my way! That guy has no clue what he's doing!"

Whether it occurs at our inlet or on any other strip of water, anyone who spends enough time piloting a boat is sure to eventually be on both the "giving" and the "receiving" end of such comments. Even the best captain in the world is going to get a bit goosed up now and again and zig when he ought to zag, boaters with limited experience are obviously going to do it with a lot more frequency. Of course there are "rules of the road" written into maritime law for boaters to follow that are supposed to help prevent collisions on the water. Unfortunately there's way too many folks operating boats who either have no idea what those rules are, and some that simply choose not to follow them.

Around here we have two sets of rules to contend with; those written for vessels traveling one the outside the inlet and those designed to manage boaters inside the inlet. These two sets of rules are usually referred to as "International and Inland Rules of the Road." The complete list of these rules is quite long and addresses primarily

lighting requirements, sound signals, and conduct between vessels. Light and sound signals vary a bit between inland and international rules, but there's not that much difference in the regulations that address the conduct between two vessels.

The regulations that address the conduct between two vessels in sight of one another" are fairly straightforward and easy to remember and are pretty much what midday boaters have to deal with as they run the gauntlet of watercraft inside the inlet. If everyone would follow these few basic rules, boating around the inlet (and everywhere else) would be a lot safer and more pleasant for us all.

**Overtaking:** If you are overtaking (passing) another vessel, you are required to keep out of the way of that vessel, which means that you must not do anything that will force the other operator to alter their course or speed. Until they are past and clear, an overtaking vessel must stay clear of the other vessel even after they make the pass. In other words, don't shoot past someone and then stop in front of them!

**Crossing:** In a situation where one vessel must cross in front of the other, the vessel to starboard (known as the "stand-on" vessel) is required to hold its course and speed and the other (give-way) vessel is required to stay clear and avoid crossing ahead. In other words, the guy to the right is supposed to keep going straight while the guy to the left goes behind him. It's important that the stand-on vessel holds his course and speed so that the fellow going around behind doesn't misjudge the speed and plow into him.



Ronnie Swartz and crew fishing on North Star out of Tilghman Is.

**Meeting:** Most folks know that when two vessels will meet head-on, each is supposed to turn to starboard and pass port-to-port, that's the way it's supposed to be done. But, if for some reason, it's not possible for one vessel to pass the other in that fashion, it's important for the operator to make his intentions known to the other captain in ample time to avoid a collision. Call him on the radio, turn your boat sharply to one side, whatever it takes - don't crash!

**Crossing a channel:** Any vessel crossing a channel must stay clear of all vessels traveling up or down that channel. This is one rule that really gets broken a lot in our coastal bays particularly by small boaters and our "beloved" personal watercraft operators!

It should be known that all of these rules were written to address the actions between two vessels. Once you add three or more boats into the mix

there's too many variables, so the rules pretty much state that operators are required to do whatever they can to avoid collision. I guess that means "you're on your own skipper!"

Along with those rules, boaters are also required to use whistle signals to indicate their actions or intentions, but locally that's almost never done and I surely don't have space to cover all that here. I will say, however, that EVERY boater (even those not required to do so) should take some kind of formal boater education course so that they know and can apply these rules to their everyday boating.

It doesn't matter if you run a sixty-foot sportfisher or an eight-foot jet ski, they're both considered "power vessels" under the law, and both can put more than just the operator in the graveyard if they don't know and follow the rules!



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Ricky Stacey Sr., with a nice Talbot County Buck.



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“The best thing about hunting and fishing,’ the Old Man said, ‘is that you don’t have to actually do it to enjoy it. You can go to bed every night thinking about how much fun you had twenty years ago, and it all comes back clear as moonlight.” — Robert Ruark



\*excluding select items





## "The Last Word"

### RUT HARD

By Steve Huettner

When this issue is viewed by you the reader, we will be into the month of December and the period known as the whitetail rut will be a distant memory. For both deer and the deer hunter, it's probably a good thing

For those of you who may not be avid deer hunters, the rut period is when male deer act in a manner similar to college-aged males on spring break. The male deer becomes a four-legged, testosterone-filled animal with a single purpose; to find a doe that has come into heat and breed her as often as he can while fighting off the advances of fellow like-minded deer (This behavior is often found in men during ladies night at the local watering hole.) The buck lives on little sleep, forsaking most food, and any sense of self-preservation and common sense that he has exhibited for the previous 11 months of the year. He is in full tilt, non-stop, damn the torpedoes mode to procreate, and if that means dodging SUV's, arrows, and fellow deer then so be it.

For hunters in pursuit of mature whitetail bucks, the rut is like July 4th, Christmas, New Year, and the Super Bowl wrapped up together for roughly a two-week period. As the whitetail buck undergoes a metamorphosis during the rut, so does the hunter.

The whitetail buck is consumed with locating and breeding any willing doe he is able to find and make sure none of his rivals beat him to it. The whitetail hunter is consumed

with finding that mature buck and luring him into the bow range. Never has there ever been a more symbiotic relationship between hunter and prey.

The hunter starts by planning vacation and sick days to ensure they have ample days banked to be in the woods (I am positive that our national GDP decreases during two weeks in November). Leading up to the rut, time is spent looking for rubs and scrapes and doe bedding areas. Sure, tale signs of where bucks will be visiting. For those unfortunate souls who have to work, scouting is done via text messages from fellow hunters, checking internet chat rooms, referring to various moon and solunar charts, and a few probably contacting a psychic medium to channel when the rut will occur. Hunters have their own language; seeking phase, chasing, snort wheeze, grunt, and the lockdown period.

Once those magic words are uttered, "It's on" the normally responsible citizen becomes all consumed with chasing mature whitetail deer. The truck is loaded and equipped with enough supplies to feed a small village and more gear than was used by Lewis and Clark (I hope the wife doesn't know how much I spend on gas). The honey-do list collects dust, voicemails build up, and emails are answered at bizarre hours. Sleep becomes a cruel and elusive mistress. Diet consists of foods in plastic wrappers purchased at 24-hour stores, energy drinks, and jerky. Food spinning around a heat



A buck swimming after a doe on the upper Chesapeake last month.

lamp for 12 hours becomes gourmet. Personal hygiene is all but forgotten as doe in heat becomes the standard deodorant, and you try to retain that woody smell. You can always tell when someone has been in the woods a bit too long, people start to stand upwind of them when in line at the store.

Time spent in the woods increases, with hunters packing three meals and a relief bottle (after a thermos of coffee what do you expect) so they can spend the entire day in the woods. Pity the poor hunter who takes an hour off to attend to nature's call and a meal only to find out the 12-point drop time had taken up residence with the local hot doe 15 yards from his perch.

As the rut winds down and comes

to an end, the whitetail buck emerges from the rut a mere shadow of his former self. Losing weight, broken tines, and scars from fighting rivals. He seeks refuge to tend to his wounds and attempts to recharge the batteries to survive the winter. The hunter emerges from the woods a mere shell of his former self. Wind streaked face, two weeks of facial hair and cracked lips are telltale signs of a rut hunter. Hair disheveled and unkempt; and a strange gaze from staring into the woods for two weeks show the toll the rut has had on the hunter.

In the end, I often say, "I'm not sure who the rut is tougher on, the deer or the hunter pursuing the deer?"

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## Recipe of the Month

### *Black and Blue Venison Burger*



#### Ingredients:

1lb Venison Burger Patties (about 1/3lb each)  
 2 Tablespoons Worcestershire Sauce  
 2 Tablespoons Killer Hogs AP Seasoning  
 1/2 cup Mayonnaise  
 4oz Blue Cheese crumbled  
 1 teaspoon Killer Hogs TX Seasoning  
 1 teaspoon Hot Sauce  
 Hamburger Buns  
 Lettuce, Tomato Slices, & Dill Pickle  
 Directions:

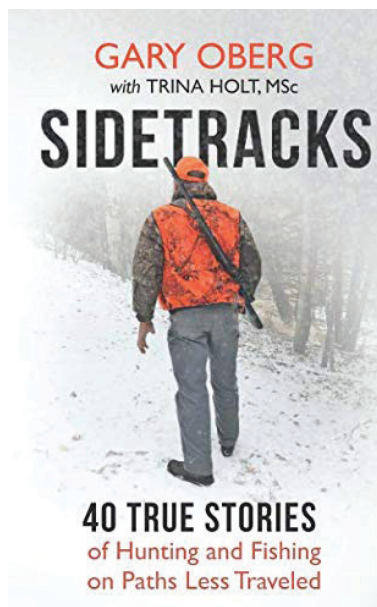
1. In a small bowl add mayo, blue cheese, hot sauce, and TX rub. Stir to combine and place in the refrigerator until ready to use.
2. Prepare charcoal grill for 2 zone grilling (hot and cool side).
3. Drizzle Worcestershire on each side of the burgers and season with AP Seasoning.
4. Grill the burgers over the direct side first for 1 1/2 minutes each side then mover to the cool zone to finish cooking. Remove the burgers from the grill when internal temperature reaches 160°F internal and rest for 3-5 minutes before assembling the burger.
5. To build the burger first toast the buns either on the grill or in the oven, spread mayo on the bottom bun, layer on dill pickle, lettuce, and tomato. Top with the burger and add the blue cheese sauce over the top. Place the bun on top and serve.



Kiley joins Schrader's Outdoors every year for the youth hunt weekend, she's once again had a successful hunt with us.

## Book of the Month

### *SIDETRACKS: 40 TRUE STORIES OF HUNTING AND FISHING ON PATHS LESS TRAVELED*



Discover Some of the Best Hunting and Fishing Spots in North America! Avid outdoorsman and successful entrepreneur Gary Oberg shares a lifetime of hunting and fishing adventures, and some mis-adventures, in a series of 40 entertaining true stories. His book "Sidetracks" reveals locations where the finest game and the feistiest fish live including: ▪ Minnesota Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness ▪ Lake Wenasaga, Ontario, Canada ▪ Arctic Lodges, Reindeer Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada ▪ Rice Lake, Ontario, Canada ▪ Skyline Guest Ranch, Cooke City, Montana ▪ Fishing Charters in Seward, Alaska ▪ Eagle's Nest Resort, Alaska ▪ Sawtooth Mountain, Craig, Colorado ▪ Sioux Lake, Meeker County, Minnesota ▪ Spirit Lake, Iowa ▪ Rochester, Minnesota ▪ Lake of the Woods, Minnesota & Canada ▪

Rowleys Bay, Door County, Wisconsin ▪ Bear Lake Lodge, Alaska ▪ Floating Lodges of Sioux Narrows, Ontario, Canada ABOUT THE AUTHOR—Gary Oberg, BME, PE, has spent his life on the edge. As an engineer and entrepreneur, he's taken a lot of chances, but he really learned about risk mitigation over a lifetime of pushing the limits outdoors. He grew up on a farm in Minnesota, where he learned to appreciate nature and her ways, and spent much of his life fishing and hunting throughout North America. These are the stories he's accumulated over decades, and the lessons they've taught him. Gary says, "If you're not living on the edge, you're takin' up too much room."



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